

Lessons in safety – youth and snowmobiling

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 20 percent of snowmobile-related injuries are sustained by children younger than 16 years.

While accidents happen whether a child is a passenger or an operator, Michigan has specific rules to help ensure that children and adolescents who operate snowmobiles acquire the proper skills and training.

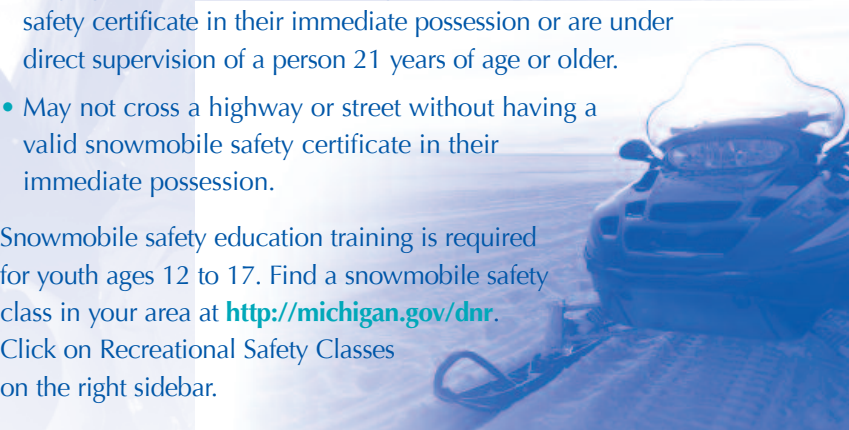
Under the law, a person under the age of 12:

- May not operate a snowmobile without direct supervision of an adult, except on property owned or controlled by the parent or legal guardian.
- May not cross a highway or street.

A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age:

- May operate a snowmobile if they have a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession or are under direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older.
- May not cross a highway or street without having a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession.

Snowmobile safety education training is required for youth ages 12 to 17. Find a snowmobile safety class in your area at <http://michigan.gov/dnr>. Click on Recreational Safety Classes on the right sidebar.



Michigan SNOWMOBILE and Safety Guide

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Resources on the web

- 1 Don't miss out on the fun! Check the statewide Calendar of Events at the Michigan Snowmobile Association website, www.msasnow.org.
- 2 Let it snow! Get the latest snow analyses and regional forecasts from the National Weather Service at www.noahsc.noaa.gov.
- 3 Plan the perfect day trip or weekend getaway at <http://michigan.org/Things-to-Do/Snow-Sports/>.

M I C H I G A N

SNOWMOBILE and SAFETY GUIDE

Winter 2009



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Dear Michigan Snowmobiler:

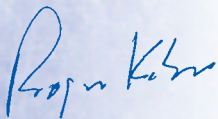
Michigan winter fun heats up when the air chills and the snow flies! That's when snowmobile enthusiasts take to the Great Outdoors to experience the exhilaration and adventure of the sport.

This season, why not share the fun? Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week, February 14-22, 2009, provides a great opportunity to enjoy the sport and help your non-snowmobiling friends and family experience everything a Michigan winter has to offer.

For novices and old hands alike, the best way to keep snowmobiling fun and family-friendly is by safe and responsible sledding. This guide provides some important safety tips. You can find more information and keep up-to-date on rules, regulations and more at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

I hope you and your family enjoy a safe and fun snowmobiling season. If my office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at **1-866-305-2132** or by e-mail at senrkahn@senate.michigan.gov.

Best Wishes,



Roger Kahn, M.D.
State Senator

Senator Kahn reminds sledders: Safety First!

Nothing diminishes the fun of sledding faster than an accident or injury. Last season saw a rise in snowmobile-related deaths in Michigan over the previous year. Alcohol and excessive speed were frequently cited as contributing factors in these fatal incidents.

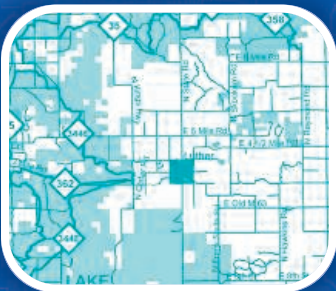
A majority of these tragic accidents also occurred after dark. As visibility diminishes, it is more difficult to see unexpected hazards, like rocks or posts, in time to avoid a collision. So take care not to overdrive your headlight beam. Slow down – make sure you have time to recognize danger and react.

Keep sledding safe by following these common-sense guidelines:

- Never consume alcohol before or during your ride.
- Operate at a safe speed. Keep your snowmobile under control.
- Stay on marked trails and areas where snowmobiling is permitted.
- Learn and use hand signals for safety on the trails.
- Visit www.snowmobilers.org for more information.
- Avoid travel on unfamiliar frozen bodies of water.
- Use extra caution at night. Don't override the headlights.
- Keep your snowmobile in good operating condition.
- Know the conditions. Check the weather before you leave.
- Always wear a helmet – it's the law. Dress appropriately.
- Never ride alone. Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Be prepared. Carry emergency supplies and learn survival skills.

Snowmobile trail maps upgraded

Michigan's 6,546-mile designated snowmobile trail system promises some of the best sledding around. Take a look at the statewide network by region or county at www.michigan.gov/dnr. The snowmobile trail maps are Global Positioning System (GPS) quality and accurately show the system's signed and groomed trails. The maps are updated regularly as new trail additions, re-routes, and closures are completed.



Free ice fishing weekend

This Valentine's Day, take your sweetheart ice fishing! Michigan's free ice fishing weekend falls on February 14-15, 2009. All fishing license fees are waived for residents and out-of-state visitors alike on both inland and Great Lakes waters. All fishing regulations will still apply. Visit www.michigan.gov/dnr for more information about ice fishing and shanty regulations.

Track weather for safe snowmobiling

What snowmobile enthusiast doesn't look forward to frosty temperatures and the wind in their face? Just don't get too much of a good thing! Wind-chill conditions can contribute to frostbite and hypothermia, two potentially serious health conditions.

The wind chill temperature is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin, caused by the effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate, causing the skin temperature to drop. For example, a temperature of 10 degrees F and a travel speed of 30 mph will produce a wind-chill temperature of -12 degrees F.

		Temperature (°F)											
Wind (mph)	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15
	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54
	60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55
Frostbite Times		30 minutes			10 minutes			5 minutes					

See the full Wind-Chill Chart at: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill/.